Duty of general body, Kendriya Bhandar

524. SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is the duty of the general body, Kendriya Bhandar (i) to lay down broad guidelines for the board of directors for conducting the activities of the Society and (ii) to formulate code of conduct for the members of the Board and officers, among other duties;

(b) whether the general body has framed any such policies;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) Under Multi State Cooperative Societies Act, 2002, one of the purposes of calling the Annual General Meeting of the General Body of the Society is to formulate a code of conduct for the members of the Board and Officers.

(b) to (d) In pursuance of a decision by the General Body, the Board constituted a Committee for framing rules and procedures for the employees of the Kendriya Bhandar as well as a Code of Conduct for members of the Board. The Committee has since formulated the draft Code of Conduct for Members in addition to other rules and regulations for the employees of the Kendriya Bhandar.

Country's rank in corruption

525. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a former Defence Minister had remarked on 10th October, 2006 that India is the most corrupt country in the world, based on a ranking by an independent international watchdog;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) the number of public servants held for corrupt practices during the last three years and action taken against them;

(d) whether Government have reviewed rules, systems and procedures vulnerable to corrupt practices and the steps taken to streamline them; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) and (b) A former Defence Minister is reported to have referred to a report of the Transparency International on corruption.

The Government is fully committed to implement the policy of 'Zero Tolerance' of corruption and is moving progressively to eradicate corruption from all spheres of life.

(c) As per information provided by the CBI, cases of 1067, 1087 and 1198 public servants were sent for trial in years 2004, 2005 and 2006 respectively.

(d) and (e) Several steps have been initiated to remove corruption and to improve functioning of Government. Important among these steps are:-

(a) Enactment of the Central Vigilance Commission Act, 2003;

(b) Whistle Blowers Resolution, 2004;

(c) Enacting the Right to Information Act, 2005;

(d) the pro-active involvement of Ministry/ Department through Annual Action Plan on Vigilance;

(e) issue of comprehensive instructions on transparency in tendering and contracting processes by the CVC; and

(f) strengthening and modernization of the CBI to discharge its anti corruption functioning etc.

Government organizations are also constantly engaged in improving their functioning through e-Governance, issue of Citizen Charters and simplification of procedures and systems, which are aimed at eradicating corruption by improving transparency and accountability.

Complaints of disproportionate assets

526. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of complaints of disproportionate assets against personnels, department and PSU-wise and under the Prevention of Corruption Act referred to CVC, year-wise, since 2000-01 till date indicating number of officers, rank-wise, among them;

(b) whether any review of the emerging situation reflecting diminishing sense of integrity and honesty among the personnel in Government and PSUs have been carried out;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof indicating the steps being contemplated, if any, to arrest the trend; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) During the period from 2000-01 to 2006-07, the Central Vigilance Commission has received a total of 129 cases pertaining to disproportionate assets under the Prevention of Corruption Act,